



August 2017

TTA Newsletter

Our mission is to support the needs of Texas' public transportation systems through statewide advocacy and education

Dear Texas Transit Association Members,

I would like to express that it gives me great pleasure to have been elected by my peers to the position of Board President for Texas Transit Association. Although I have not served in this capacity before, please know that I am fully committed to giving my all to move our Great association forward. As of July 1, 2017, my term began, and I look forward to serving you to the best of my ability.

Also, I cannot begin to express how ecstatic I am to serve Public Transit in Texas as the incoming President of TTA. As you may know, our mission is to support the needs of Texas public transportation systems through statewide advocacy and education. TTA, its board, and the Executive Director are fully committed to this mission, and we look forward to working with all of you to continue to carry out this very important mission to the benefit of our great State as well as all of our constituents.



I would like to challenge all of us to be more involved with TTA, and commit to creating a cohesive group that together will have more power to move our initiatives forward.

Sincerely,

Mario Delgado
President
Texas Transit Association



New 35-Foot, Low-Floor Diesel Buses Unveiled During Public Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Waco Transit System recently introduced five new state-of-the-art buses into its fleet and revealed them to the public during a ribbon cutting ceremony at the WTS bus terminal on May 22. Many city officials were in attendance, including Mayor Kyle Deaver, Assistant City Manager Deidra Emerson, and Councilman John Kinnaird. “The new buses are heavy duty and reflect the highest quality available in the market,” said John Hendrickson, Waco Transit System General Manager. “In moving forward with this investment, we’ll be able to accommodate higher ridership levels and enhance passenger safety and comfort, for a more enjoyable ride.” New Flyer Industries, the manufacturer of the new buses, designed and built the vehicles in St. Cloud, Minnesota. These buses have already hit the streets in June, the new buses will help support and maintain Waco Transit System’s current level of service, as well as support future growth.

Right Photo: Ribbon Cutting
May 22, 2017



Left Photo: All five new buses
in front of the historic ALICO
building in Waco, TX

Waco Transit System features bike/ pedestrians with TxDOT on new buses

Waco Transit System was recently asked to participate with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) in supporting the bike/pedestrian clients highlighting Waco Transit System’s five newly recent buses.



Photo Courtesy: Michael Amador/TxDOT

RED, WHITE, AND BLUE VETERANS RIDE PROGRAM

The Southwest Area Regional Transit District (SWART) announces the kick off of its Red, White, and Blue Veterans Ride Program which is set to begin on July 17th. SWART was awarded \$200,000 from the Texas Veterans Commission General Services Program to provide medical transportation services to Veterans and their dependents and spousal survivors for the next year. SWART will provide specialized veterans' transportation services to veterans, their dependents and their spousal survivors throughout the nine county Middle Rio Grande Region. The service area will include the counties of Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Zavala. Routes will consist of door to door, demand response, local and out of area services to medical facilities deemed as a need by the project's specialized riders.

Veterans and their dependents are eligible to ride the service by showing proof of the following documents.

- *DD Form 214, Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty
- *NGB-22, National Guard Report of Separation and Record of Service
- *Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) official letter or disability letter
- *State of Texas Issued Driver License with Veteran designation
- *E-Benefits summary
- *Honorable discharge certificate
- *Uniform Services Identification Card
- *VA Health Card

Established routes were developed by SWART in conjunction with the Regional Veteran's Officers. Such routes include weekly travel to Kerrville each Monday arriving by 8:30 AM and returning at 2:30 PM as well as weekly routes to San Antonio each Wednesday arriving at 9:30 AM and returning at 3:30 PM.

Those Veterans and their dependents or spousal survivors can schedule their ride by contacting SWART at 800-499-1617. Proof of eligibility will have to be determined prior to their reservation. A twenty-four hour advanced reservation is required. There is no charge for the service and is strictly for medical purposes.

This program is supported by a grant from the Texas Veterans Commission Fund for Veterans' assistance. The funds for veterans' Assistance provides grants to organizations serving veterans and their families. For more information, SWART can be contacted at 800-499-1617 or email Sarah Hidalgo-Cook, General Manager, at scook@paseoswart.org. Your local Veteran's Officer can be contacted as well.



Dallas County Community College District Continues Partnership with DART to Provide Transit Passes to Students

DART and the Dallas County Community College District are cutting students' transportation costs and making it easier for them to get to class with a free DART pass.

Last year, DCCCD's Board of Trustees approved investing \$1.2 million in the program to provide a free DART pass to eligible students at all DCCCD colleges through DART's [Higher Education Pass Program](#). The network of seven community colleges will continue offering the passes in the 2018/2019 school year.

"Transportation is a big barrier for many of our students, and our partnership with DART to provide a Student GoPass to those who are eligible is one way to remove that obstacle," said Dr. Joe May, DCCCD's chancellor.

To qualify, students must enroll in six or more credit hours for either the fall or spring semester, and they must enroll in three or more credit hours during the summer semester.



Continuing education students attending any of DCCCD's colleges also can obtain the free DART Student GoPass. They must enroll in 96 or more contact hours for either the fall or spring semester or 48 or more contact hours for the summer semester.

For more information about DCCCD's involvement in the program visit, DART.org/news or DCCCD.edu. To learn more about DART's Higher Education Pass Program, visit DART.org/collegepass.





WHERE INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY
CONVERGE

Annual Meeting: October 8-11, 2017

EXPO: October 9-11, 2017

Georgia World Congress Center | Atlanta, GA



TTA Board Retreat



Date: August 23rd- 25th

Location: Fort Worth Worthington Hotel



Wish to advertise or publish a story in our next newsletter? Have any birthdays, anniversaries, or retirements to celebrate?

Contact Meredith Greene 512-900-0550 or Meredith@txtransit.org